



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

April 2021



UU Humanists Local Group

Monthly Meeting

Steve Hamm - "Pivot Projects"

Monday April 19, 7:00 p.m.



Steve Hamm will speak to us about "Pivot Projects", and about the group's efforts to help society become more sustainable and resilient. He will also talk about his related upcoming book, "The Pivot", which will be published this year by Columbia University Press.

Steve is a New Haven-based documentary film maker and videographer. He tells us: "I'm an expert in the global information technology business, innovation and entrepreneurship. In my personal work, I focus on building community and empathy." Areas of special interest: information technology, innovation, entrepreneurship, globalization, medical science.

Links for further information:

<https://www.pivotprojects.org>

<https://vimeo.com/484135348?ref=em-share>

Meeting link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81444530449>

Calendar of Events

RSVPs are welcome at meetup.com/cthumanist/events. You can view the latest newsletter at www.cthumanist.org.

Programs are held ONLINE this month.

APRIL 2021

Sat. 3	Explorations	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Mon. 5	Monday Social Zoom	7:00 p.m.
Sat. 17	Book Discussion: "Deaths of Despair" By Anne Case and Angus Deaton	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Mon. 19	Monthly Meeting - "Pivot Projects" Speaker: Steve Hamm	7:00 p.m.
Sun. 25	Board Meeting	3:30 p.m.
Mon. 26	Monday Discussion Zoom Topic: Biomass	7:00 p.m.

MAY 2021

Sat. 1	Explorations	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Mon. 3	Monday Social Zoom	7:00 p.m.
Sat. 15	Book Discussion: "The Master and Margarita" By Mikhail Bulgakov	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Mon. 17	Monthly Meeting - "Climate Change" Speaker: Dan Blinn and Patrick McCann	7:00 p.m.
Sun. 23	Board Meeting	3:30 p.m.
Mon. 24	Monday Discussion Zoom Topic: TBD	7:00 p.m.

Monday Social

- Monday April 5, 7:00 p.m.

Join us online for our Virtual Social Dinner and discuss a wide range of topics with like-minded people.

Link to event: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83132656752>

"Humanism is about the world, not about humanism."

- Harold Blackham

www.cthumanist.org

www.meetup.com/cthumanist . www.facebook.com/cthumanist . www.twitter.com/cthumanist

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Event of Interest

Presented by **Hartford Humanists**:
Carl Zimmer - Life's Edge: The Search for What It Means to Be Alive, Tue, Apr 27, 6:30 p.m.
<https://meetu.ps/e/JJhMh/z0H04/a>

Skeptical Inquirer Presents: [Gamification to Counter Science Misinformation](#), a live online event Thursday April 1, 7 p.m. To inoculate ourselves against viruses, we use vaccines. To inoculate ourselves against misinformation we use ... games and cartoons?
Register at <https://skepticalinquirer.org/>

Save the Date

HAC Annual Picnic and Summer Solstice Celebration

Saturday, June 19, 4:00 - 8:00 PM
USNH Parking Lot and Grounds at 700
Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, CT.
It's time to enjoy meeting with our Humanist friends in person. Bring a musical instrument if you wish. Summer music is especially rich with the sounds of cicadas, grasshoppers, katydids, birds, etc.



We will follow the USNH safety protocol.
BYO Everything! - Chairs, Food, Drink.
Access to the buildings' restrooms will be allowed as needed, one person at a time.
Rain date is Sunday, June 20.

Humanist Explorations: What is bitcoin?

Presented by Aaron Goode -- Sat. April 3, 2:30 p.m.

What is bitcoin? What is cryptocurrency and how is it enabled by blockchain technology? Without getting too deep into the technological weeds, we will discuss how blockchain is changing the world of finance, technology, and art, and whether we think cryptocurrency is a Ponzi scheme, a religious cult, or the greatest thing since sliced bread. We'll also discuss some recent headlines about "nonfungible tokens," which represent an interesting and novel application of blockchain to the world of digital art.

<https://www.vox.com/2015/11/3/18053494/can-you-explain-bitcoin-in-a-2-minute-video>

<https://youtu.be/bBC-nXj3Ng4>

<https://blockgeeks.com/guides/blockchain-applications/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/12/technology/bitcoin-passwords-wallets-fortunes.html>

Find more articles on the meetup page to read/watch relating to this topic.

Meeting link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86886923216>

Book Discussion: "Deaths of Despair" by Anne Case & Angus Deaton -- Sat, Apr 17 · 2:30 p.m.

Hosted by Kevin & Paula

"Deaths of Despair and the Future of Capitalism" paints a troubling portrait of the American dream in decline. For the white working class, today's America has become a land of broken families and few prospects. As the college-educated become healthier and wealthier, adults without a degree are literally dying from pain and despair. In this critically important book, Case and Deaton tie the crisis to the weakening position of labor, the growing power of corporations, and, above all, to a rapacious health-care sector that redistributes working-class wages into the pockets of the wealthy. Capitalism, which over two centuries lifted countless people out of poverty, is now destroying the lives of blue-collar America.

Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86745074377?pwd=MVIZYWFGbVJZWFljczFLNGZyN05Vdz09>

Upcoming Books:

Saturday, May 15: The Master and Margarita by Mikhail Bulgakov

Saturday, June 19: Stony the Road by Henry Louis Gates, Jr

Saturday, July 17: This Life: Secular Faith and Spiritual Freedom
by Martin Hägglund

Monday Discussion: Biomass -Mon. April 26, 7:00 p.m.

Hosted by Carol Siddall

In Europe, burning wood for power is now considered carbon neutral. How is this possible and what's going on in America? It's complicated. This article explains how reality is somewhere between the rhetoric of the pros and the cons on the issue.

Article: <https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2021/03/26/biomass-carbon-climate-politics-477620>

Meeting link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83782952532>